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### A History of the Agricultural Department, University of Tennessee

T. G. Hinton

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#### Recommended Citation

Hinton, T. G., "A History of the Agricultural Department, University of Tennessee" (1924). *History of the Institute of Agriculture: Publications*.  
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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF DAIRYING  
C. ELMER WYLIE  
THOS. B. HARRISON  
I. A. BUCKELS  
B. P. HAZLEWOOD

A History of  
THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT  
University of Tennessee

By  
T. G. Hinton

1924.



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON

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TO DIRECTOR  
FROM SAC, NEW YORK  
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DATE: 10/10/54

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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF DAIRYING  
C. ELMER WYLIE  
THOS. B. HARRISON  
I. A. BUCKELS  
B. P. HAZLEWOOD

Respectfully Dedicated  
To  
Charles A. Willson  
Dean of the College of Agriculture,  
University of Tennessee.

15924  
58826

HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,  
University of Tennessee

By J. G. Hinton '24

Blount College, the nucleus from which our great institution has sprung, was founded Sept. 10, 1794. On October 26, 1807 it became East Tennessee College and in 1840 East Tennessee University.\*

The present campus, "The Hill," was purchased in 1826 at a cost of \$600.

About the year 1856 ~~or 1857~~, there was a decided effort made to establish Agriculture in the University by the President, Dr. George Cook.\*\*

The next thing of particular interest was the passing of the first Morrill or Land Grant Act, by Congress, on July 2, 1862. This act provided 30,000 acres of Government land for each Senator and Representative in Congress; Tennessee's allotment being 300,000 acres. This land could be sold, the proceeds invested in 5% stock or interest bearing bonds, the interest from which was to be used in establishing Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.\*\*\*

The fact that the nation was at war when the Act was passed made it impossible for Tennessee to accept the offer until January 16, 1869. This Act provided for the establishment of the ~~Tennessee~~ College of Agriculture, and required the school selected to have accommodations for at least 275 students and to own in connection with the Agricultural College a farm of at least 200 acres. An act of the Legislature allowed each State Senator to appoint two students and allowed each representative to appoint three students

\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 63, 64, 66

\*\* " " " " " 67

\*\*\* " " " " " 70

from their respective districts to be given free tuition at the University. \*

The same year (1869) the Trustees of the University purchased a farm of 285 acres,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile west of the campus at a cost of \$30,000. This completed the legal requirements and \$396,000 was the final amount turned over to the University.\*

At this time there were only three <sup>courses of study</sup> ~~curricula~~ offered at the University: Agricultural, Scientific and Classical. E. Dean Daw, M.A., W.C. Atwater, Ph.D., and Prof. Hunter Nicholson composed the Agricultural staff, Prof. Nicholson holding the first Chair, of Agriculture.\*\*

The Morrill Act contained a clause requiring military training, <sup>and</sup> so, from 1871-1890 strict "West Point" discipline was adhered to. There were four degrees awarded in 1871 and five the following year; one each year being a B.S. and ~~the B.A.'s.~~ and the others B.A.'s. <sup>part</sup> In 1872, the farm produced its first crop under the University management. The same year ~~a number of~~ <sup>was</sup> livestock ~~were~~ purchased, a barn was built (a part of the now existing horse barn), and several students made one-half their board by working on the Farm.\*\*\*\*

*	Karns Hist. of U.T. pp 71
**	" " " " " 72
***	" " " " " 73
****	" " " " " 71,74,75

In 1873 Prof. Atwater, then Agricultural Chemist, was succeeded by Prof. B.S.Burton, Ph.D. The same year a dwelling was built for the Farm Superintendent. (Very probably the one used today as I find no other record of one being built). Then, too, we note that in 1873 a track<sup>^</sup> of land was turned over to the Professor of Agriculture to be used entirely for experimental purposes. This was the beginning of systematic experiment work in the state.\*

"In 1877 the trustees made separate colleges of the three old courses of study ----- the agricultural, the mechanical, and the classical. They were to be known as the College of Agriculture, the College of Engineering and Mechanic Arts, and the Classical College, each having its corps of instructors and separate curriculum. All were of equal rank but under one government. The catalogue at this time shows a still farther drawing away from the old classical education and the formulation of a new basis in science. This process had been working slowly from the establishment of the Agricultural College in 1869.\*\*

On March 10, 1879, East Tennessee University became The University of Tennessee. The same year Prof. John M. McBryde of Virginia was given the chair of Agriculture and Horticulture, including Botany. Prof. Nicholson accepted the chair of Natural History and Geology. A chair of Practical Agriculture was established ~~the same year~~ but was never filled. Prof. W.G. Brown, then teaching Agricultural and General Chemistry, went to Germany for a year. During his absence the place was filled by Prof. W.E.Moses, then an Assistant Professor.\*\*\*

\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 77 and 78  
\*\* " " " " " 79  
\*\*\* " " " " " 79, 80, 84

In 1879, a number of experiments were undertaken by Prof. McBryde, who later made a report of his findings and distributed them to the farmers of the state. The efficiency of everything on the farm was greatly increased. Each Professor of Agriculture sought to make the farm his laboratory.

In 1880, a surveyor 's course was added to the Agricultural curriculum. The same year a course was inaugurated in the Agricultural Department, requiring the student to work one day and go to school the next. \*\* ~~A likely~~ *Possibly* ~~suggestion is that~~ there was not enough definite knowledge on agricultural subjects at that time to keep the students busy, without incorporating surveying and without using every other day as a work day.

We note that at this time (1880) the Agricultural Curriculum led to the degree of Bachelor in Agriculture. \* Very likely the degree became such at the time East Tennessee University became The University of Tennessee, which was in 1879. Prof. McBryde had been successful in securing the erection of a new Agricultural Hall on the east side of "The Hill" (a part of what is now Carrick Hall). A "green house" was erected just west of this building, and with some new buildings and equipment on the farm things were in a high state of efficiency.--\*\* A year later

- \* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 86
- \*\* " " " " " 84
- \* U.T. Catalogue 1880-81 pp. 24
- \*\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 85.



(1881) a herd of registered jerseys was established, adding even more to the ~~efficiency~~ <sup>value</sup> and prestige of the Agricultural Department.\* In 1882 Prof. McBryde was succeeded by Prof. John W. Glenn of Georgia; Prof. McBryde going to South Carolina College. On June 8 of the same year, the Tennessee Experiment Station was established with Prof. Glenn as its first Director. This was one of the first five experiment stations to be established in the United States, and its purpose was to do anything to benefit the farmers of the state, such as analyzing soils, seeds, fertilizers, etc. The following year, three reports on analysis of commercial ferterlizers were compiled and circulated among the farmers.\*\*

In 1883, Dr. Humes resigned the presidency of the University and Prof. Rodes Massie was made Chairman of the Institution.\*\*\*

It is of interest to note that most of the students at this time were sons of farmers, yet very few of them took the Agricultural Course. The faculty realizing this fact, broadened the Ag. Course, requiring all students, except engineers, to take at least five subjects directly related to Agriculture. Still other subjects that had a bearing on this science were required. Thus, all students graduating obtained <sup>some</sup> ~~a fair~~ knowledge of agriculture.\*\*\*\*

\* H.T. Record 1914 pp. 43  
\*\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 86  
\*\*\* " " " " " 87  
\*\*\*\* " " " " " 88

The year 1886 was marked by the holding of the first Agricultural Short Course.\* These have been held most every year since, and have proven to be of great help to those who cannot attend for a longer period of time. For a lesser number of years, a Home Economics Short Course has been offered.

In 1887, Dr. John M. McBryde, a former Professor of Agriculture here, and at that time President of South Carolina College, was made President of the University. He accepted the position but resigned before taking up his duties: so, Dr. Chas. W. Dabney, a native of Virginia, then Chemist and Director of the North Carolina Experiment Station, was made President. Dr. Dabney accepted the Presidency on condition that he be allowed full power in directing, controlling and shaping the policy of the institution.\*\*

In March of this same year (1887), Congress passed the Hatch Bill, <sup>Act</sup> providing funds for the establishment of Experiment Stations in connection with the Colleges of Agriculture of the different states. On March 28, our State Legislature accepted this gift of \$15,000 per year, and on August 4 President Dabney was made Director. Thus, we note that there was a Tennessee Experiment Station five years prior to United States aid. Of this fund, only \$3,000 the first year and \$750 each year after could be spent for buildings; the remainder going for experiment work, research, bulletins, etc. C.L. Newman, B.S., Ala. Ag. College, and C.S. Plumb, B.S., Mass. Ag. College, were added

\* U.T. Record 1915 pp. 34

\*\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 88-89

to the Ag. faculty during the year Prof. Plumb came to the University from the Asst. Directorship of the N.Y. (Geneva) Experiment Station.\*

A tool house was erected at the farm in 1887 and the following year (1888) a new Experiment Station building, costing \$6,800, was constructed adjoining Agricultural Hall on the South.\*\* This was later known as Morrill Hall though now as Carrick.\*\*\* At this time the University garden, vineyard; and orchard were on the south side of the Campus.\*\*\*\* The first two Tennessee Bulletins appeared during this year: #1 History and Reorganization of the Experiment Station: #2 Dehorning Cattle. Dr. Dabney was responsible for the former, Prof. Plumb for the latter. \*\*\*\*\*

The name "Riverview Farm" was applied to the University Farm as early as 1889.\*\*\*\*\* This must have been the generally accepted name at that time for I find that some of the Jerseys bred here were christened with the farm name. For example I find the name Iuka of Riverview 2d 61271 A.J.C.C., a noted Jersey that made 17 lbs. 12 oz. butter in 7 days.

In 1890, the Gottinger Herbarium of Nashville, containing 4,500 plants was purchased for the University and Experiment Station. And too, Dr. Dabney resigned the Station Directorship to become Station Chemist. Prof. Lamson Scribner, B.S.,

\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 89-90

\*\* " " " " " 90

\*\*\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 41

\*\*\*\* " " " " "

\*\*\*\*\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 90

\*\*\*\*\* Tennessee University Student, Vol. 2 #1.

Maine Ag. College succeeded Dr. Dabney as Station Director. \* At this time we find the University divided into two departments: The College of Agriculture, Mechanic Arts and Sciences; and the Post-Graduate department. All Latin, Greek, Modern Language etc., was given in the Agricultural department.\*\*

The same year (1890) Congress made an additional appropriation for Land Grant Colleges, (2d Morrill Act), "To be used for the promotion of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Language and the various branches of Science." The appropriation was \$15,000 the first year, June 30, 1890, and was to increase \$1,000 each year for 10 years, reaching a stationary sum of \$25,000 in 1900. This money was to be raised by the sale of Government Lands.\*

About the year 1890, 49 acres of land were sold at \$1,000 per acre. It was land joining the "Old Farm" and the proceeds were used toward the construction of Science Hall a \$60,000 building begun in 1890.\*\*\*\* One hundred acres of land were turned over to the Experiment Station by the College in 1890.\*\*\*\*

A "Dairy Club" was organized in the fall of 1889, which held regular monthly meetings in the University Dairy at the Farm. \*\*\*\*\* Several interesting accounts of meetings held that year are to be found in the Tennessee University Student. The President of the club sat on the churn while presiding, so a write-up goes. Wonder what kind of appropriate seats the members used? The Ag. Degree of 1890-91 read, "Bachelor of Science in Agriculture," being changed from Bachelor in Agriculture.\*\*\*\*\*

- \* Karns Hist. of U.T.
- \*\* U.T. Record 1915 pp. 34
- \*\*\*\* Karns Hist. of U.T. pp. 103
- \*\*\*\*\* Tenn. Univ. Student Vol: 2, No. 4
- \*\*\*\*\* U.T. Announcement 1889-90 pp. 17.

Prof. Dabney was again made Director of the Experiment Station in 1891. At this time, nine college courses were offered and 41 students were listed as Ag. or Scientific. Requirements for entrance into the Ag. college were:

1. A good knowledge of English grammar,
2. All of arithmetic,
3. Algebra to quadratics,
4. Three books of geometry,
5. Geography of the United States,
6. History.

In 1893 the office and title of Experiment Station Director were abolished, the President assuming the duties connected therewith.\*

In 1899, a "Farmers Club" became a feature of the Agricultural Department. Whether or not this sprung from the "Dairy Club," an organization started a decade earlier, could not be ascertained. The following year, however, it became the "Rural Science Club."\*\*

A Dairy Barn costing \$5,000 and a Dairy Hall costing \$10,000 were completed in 1899. On May 1 of that year, Prof. Andrew M. Soule became Chairman of the Ag. Department; there being no Dean of Agriculture at this time. The following year Prof. Soule was made Vice-Director of the Experiment Station and in 1903 he was made Director. He resigned, however, in 1904 to go to the Virginia Experiment Station. \*\*\* He ~~has since removed to the Georgia Agricultural College of which he is President at the time of this writing.~~ *is now the President of the College of Agriculture of the University of Georgia.*

\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 42  
 \*\* Tenn. Farmer Vol: 17  
 \*\*\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 42-44

In the Trustees Report of 1893 they ask the General Assembly if they can sell a tract of about 100 acres of land which was separate from the main part of the farm.\* This must have been sold. In fact, 131 acres must have been sold since the next record I find which mentions the size of the University farm listed it as containing 105 acres, whereas the original tract was 285 acres, 49 of which was sold in 1890, leaving 236 or 131 more than the 105 acres mentioned in records of 1903.

In 1894 a brick and stone building was constructed at the farm. It was chiefly for the accommodation of students, particularly those who worked on the farm a part of the time. This building was known as "The Club House."\*\*

\* Trustees Report 1893 pp. 14  
\*\* " " 1895 --. 9

The Horticulture Plant was moved to a location near Middlebrook in 1900. In 1901 an "Agricultural Handbook" was gotten out. Then for several years following, what was known as an "Agricultural Yearbook" appeared. \*

In 1904, Dr. Dabney resigned to accept the Presidency of the University of Cincinnati and on Sept. 1st Dr. Brown Ayres became President of the University. The same year Dr. Harcourt A. Morgan was added to the Agricultural Faculty, coming as Experiment Station Director, State Entomologist, Chairman of the Ag. Department, and Professor of Entomology and Zoology. Dr. Morgan came from Louisiana State University at which place he was Prof. of Entomology, State Entomologist, and Experiment Station Entomologist. He had been there seventeen years. \*\*

At some time during the year 1904, a plot of land (36 and 32-100 acres) known as the "Thomas Land", lying just west of the farm, was purchased at a cost of \$10,000. \*\*\*

The Adams Act of 1906 provided \$7,000 for the year 1906-07 to increase \$2,000 each year until a stationary appropriation of \$15,000 was reached. \*\*\*\*

The same year the Nelson Amendment, an amendment to the General Agricultural Appropriation Bill was passed, providing \$5,000 the first year for each state, and to increase \$5,000 each year until it reached the \$25,000 per year mark. \*\*\*\*\*

\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 42-44.

\*\* " " "

\*\*\* Trustees Report 1904 pp. 3.

\*\*\*\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 45.

In 1906 the Ags. started a monthly magazine known as the U.T. Farmer; L.R. Neel being its first Editor. \*

In 1907, the State Legislature made an appropriation of \$100,000 to be released in two annual payments of \$50,000 each. From this, Morrill Hall, the first building on the Campus to be constructed entirely with state funds, was erected at a cost of about \$50,000. It was dedicated May 28th 1908. \*\* At this time we find three Agricultural Courses offered: Agronomy, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying. The Ag. Degree was also changed to read, "Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture."

This same year (1907), the General Assembly accepted a gift from Madison County of a farm of 180 acres, in connection with which the West Tennessee Experiment Station was established; ~~Further still,~~ <sup>and</sup> the Bureau of Entomology started tobacco insect investigation work at Clarksville during the year 1907. \*\*\*

The following year (1908), the "Rural Science Club" became the "Ag Rural Club" and a year later was christened the "Ag Club", which name it holds today. A requirement for membership at some stage of its development was as follows: "One must have handled the hoe, sowed his wild oats and raised cain" \*\*\*\* Twelve entrance units were necessary for entrance into the Ag. College at this time.

- \* U.T. Farmer 1906 Vol: 1
- \*\* Trustees Report 1908 pp. 20.
- \*\*\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 45, 46.
- \*\*\*\* Tennessee Farmer 1922 Vol: 17.



In 1910 Prof. C.A. Willson was added to the Ag. Faculty.

The number of entrance units was raised to 13 in 1911. The building of Dr. Morgan's residence near Kingston Pike on the farm is another marker for 1911. \* Further still, Tennessee Hall was contracted for, for a period of ten years to be used by the Home Economics Department. I mention this because last year (1923) the Home Economics Department became a part of the College of Agriculture.

The horse and cattle barn was remodeled in 1911 making it about three times its former size. \*

O.P. Temple Hall, constructed by the East Tennessee Farmers' Convention is used by the Ag. Dept. as a stock judging pavilion. It was begun in 1911 and was completed the following year. The dedicatory address was made May 22nd 1912 by Dr. A.M. Soule, a former member of the Ag. faculty and at one time Secretary of the Convention. \* Late in the same year (Nov. 9th), a charter was granted the Morgan Chapter of Alpha Zeta, an Honorary Agricultural Fraternity. \*\*

The Legislature in 1913 passed an Annual Appropriation Bill, providing \$5,000 a year for Agricultural Extension work. The same year the Smith-Lever Bill was passed by Congress providing funds for the same purpose; States and Counties matching the amounts given by the

\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 46, 47  
 \*\* From the Charter.

Federal Government. Extension work, however, had been going on for some time, in way of conventions, institutes and educational programs throughout the state; the legislation being the result of a long felt need in work that had been in progress in a small way for a number of years. Prof. C.A. Keffer was made the first Director of the organized Division of Extension. \*

A small tobacco experiment station was established at Clarksville in Jan. 1913. \*\* Still another gift of importance in 1913 was Cherokee Farm, a 569 acre tract of land situated just across the Tennessee River from the old farm. It was given by Knox County and ~~the City~~ <sup>citizens</sup> of Knoxville at a cost of approximately \$140,000. \*\*\*

In 1914, Dr. H.A. Morgan, then chairman of the College of Agriculture, was made its Dean.

In 1917, Maury County gave the University a 640 acre farm, thus providing for the Middle Tennessee Experiment Station, which is a live stock Experiment Station. This same year Miss Mary Boyce Temple placed \$25,000 at the disposal of the University to be used for plant breeding work. \*\*\*\*

Tennessee Hall was deeded to the University Sept. 1st, 1919, and was formally accepted in Jan. 1920. It is used by the Home Economics Department. \*\*\*\*\*

\*\* U.T. Record 1914 pp. 48.

\*\*\* Trustees Report 1914 pp. 18.

\*\*\*\*\* Trustees Report 1921 pp. 16.

At the death of Dr. Ayres in Jan. 1919, Dr. H.A. Morgan, then Dean of the College of Agriculture, became President of the University. Prof. C.A. Willson was made Vice-Dean of the Ag. College and Prof. C.A. Mooers Vice-Director of the Experiment Station. \*

April 1st 1919 marks the establishment of the Smith-Hughes or Agricultural Education Department at the University. The purpose of this department is to train Agricultural teachers. \*\*

In 1921 the Ag. Degree was again changed to read, "Bachelor of Science in Agriculture," instead of Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture. \*\*\*

A building contract had been let for several years so in June 1921 the new and magnificent agricultural building on the farm was dedicated. ~~to the University~~. The cost of the building was \$265,000. This one building now accomodates the Division of Extension Staff, a part of the Experiment Station, and most of the College of Agriculture. \*\*\*\*

In 1923, Professors C.A. Willson and C.A. Mooers were respectively made Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the Experiment Station.

\* Trustees Report 1919 pp. 14.  
 \*\* " " 1921 pp. 7.  
 \*\*\* U.T. Record 1921 pp. 33.  
 \*\*\*\* " " 1921 pp. 12.

Aside from the appropriations received from Congress as above noted, the College of Agriculture in its work of resident teaching, research, and extension teaching, shares with the other colleges of the University in State support. In 1909 the State Legislature passed the General Appropriation Bill, which provided that 25% of the gross revenue of the State go into the General Education Fund. 7% of this went to the University, a due portion going to the Ag. department.

The General Education Fund was made 33% of the gross revenue of the State in 1911, by an amendment to the Act of 1909.

In 1917 the State made a million dollar appropriation to the University. The same year the Half Mill Tax Bill was passed, providing for the University's support. It however contained a clause requiring repayment of the million dollar appropriation.

The first of these tied the University in with the school system of the State and the latter provided the long felt need of increased resources, giving the University a chance for successful operation and limited expansion.

Strictly speaking no history is complete. <sup>Many</sup> ~~The~~ details ~~of such~~ are necessarily omitted. And oftentimes ~~we are likely~~ <sup>are left out</sup> ~~to leave out~~ things of major importance because of ~~lack of~~ <sup>incomplete</sup> records, because of their obscurity, or merely because of their unrecognized importance ~~of such~~ at the time records are compiled.

<sup>some pt.</sup> ~~In this connection~~ I might take some of the developments <sup>on Cherokee Farm.</sup> on Cherokee Farm as an example. In 1918, both a Dairy and a Beef cattle barn were built; in 1922 a sweet potato house and a dwelling for the Fruit Farm Superintendent; and ~~then~~ in 1923 a Horse barn, a Horticulture barn and a tool barn.

Many other things of varying importance might well have been given more space: e.g., the apiary; the now extensive poultry plant; the creamery in the Agricultural building; the establishment and development of the various pure-bred herds of cattle, hogs, horses and sheep; <sup>and</sup> various minor improvements ~~and~~ ~~developments~~, all of which are ~~are~~ essential to a complete, modern and successfully operating institution of Agricultural Research, Teaching, and Extension.